

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A vacuum sweeper vehicle comprising:

a sweeper body including a frame;

a pair of front wheels supported by an axle apparatus at a forward end of said sweeper body, the axle apparatus being constructed to provide a space between said front wheels;

a pair of rear wheels supported at a rearward end of said sweeper body;

a container coupled to said sweeper body for receiving debris;

a suction hose extending between said container and a vacuum nozzle proximal a forward end of said sweeper body, said suction hose extending through said space between said front wheels such that the suction hose intersects a longitudinal axis of said axle apparatus that extends between the front wheels;

a suction device for drawing said debris from said nozzle, into said container; and

at least one brush coupled to a forward end of said sweeper body for sweeping debris from a ground surface.

Claim 2 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said axle apparatus comprises at least a pair of axle members defining an elbow.

Claim 3 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said axle apparatus comprises at least a pair of axle members defining an elbow such that the axle members form an included angle with respect to each other.

Claim 4 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said axle apparatus comprises a pair of rear axle members and a pair of forward axle members, the pairs of axle members constructed to leave said space between the wheels.

Claim 5 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 4, wherein said axle members form a polygonal axle apparatus around said space between the wheels.

Claim 6 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 4, wherein said polygon is a quadrilateral.

Claim 7 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said nozzle is supported on a roller apparatus for rolling said nozzle proximal a ground surface.

Claim 8 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, wherein said roller apparatus extends forward to said sweeper body.

Claim 9 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 1, further comprising an operator's cab at said forward end of said sweeper body.

Claim 10 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 4, further comprising a leaf spring connected between a pair of forward axle members and a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 11 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 10, wherein said leaf spring is connected at a center portion thereof to said forward axle members and is connected at each end to a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): In a vacuum sweeper vehicle having a sweeper body, a container coupled to the sweeper body for receiving debris, a suction hose extending between a vacuum nozzle proximal a forward end of the body of said container, a suction device for drawing debris from the nozzle into the container, and at least one brush connected to a forward end of the sweeper for sweeping debris from a ground surface,

a pair of rear wheels supported at a rear end of said sweeper body;
a pair of front wheels; and
an axle apparatus supporting said pair of front wheels at a forward end of said sweeper body, the axle apparatus being constructed to provide a space between said front wheels whereby said suction hose extends through said space between said front wheels such that the suction hose intersects a longitudinal axis of said axle apparatus that extends between the front wheels.

Claim 13 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 12, wherein said axle apparatus comprises at least a pair of axle members defining an elbow such that the axle members form an included angle with respect to each other.

Claim 14 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 12, wherein said axle apparatus comprises a pair of rear axle members and a pair of forward axle members, the pairs of axle members constructed to leave said space between the wheels.

Claim 15 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 14, wherein said axle members form a polygonal axle apparatus around said space between the wheels.

Claim 16 (Original): The vacuum sweeper vehicle according to claim 14, further comprising a leaf spring connected between a pair of forward axle members and a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 17 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 16, wherein said leaf spring is connected at a center portion thereof to said forward axle members and is connected at each end to a front portion of the sweeper vehicle.

Claim 18 (Original): The vacuum street sweeper vehicle according to claim 12, further comprising an operator's cab at said forward end of said sweeper body.